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(54) Title: METHODS FOR PREDICTING DEVELOPMENT OF AUTO-IMMUNE DISEASES AND TREATMENT OF SAME

(57) Abstract: The present invention provides a new method for the prediction of, or diagnosis of, auto-immune diseases, thereby alerting the subject to the presence of, or propensity to develop, an auto-immune disease so that preventative or therapeutic regiments may be initiated or changed so as to treat, modulate or prevent expansion of the CD4^{lo}CD40^{hi} T cell population responsible for the destructive inflammation. The invention also discloses agents which modulate, treat or prevent expansion of CD4^{lo}CD40^{hi} T cells. In one embodiment, the method is predictive of type 1 diabetes.